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Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED
SEP 21 2004
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

No. 04-322

In the Supreme Court of the United States

ROBERT FRANCIS, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES

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Petitioner contends that his sentence under the federal Sentencing Guidelines was imposed in violation of the rule announced in *Blakely* v. *Washington*, 124 S. Ct. 2531 (2004). This Court has granted certiorari in *United States* v. *Booker*, No. 04-104 (Aug. 2, 2004), and *United States* v. *Fanfan*, No. 04-105 (Aug. 2, 2004), to consider whether *Blakely* applies to the federal Sentencing Guidelines, and, if so, how federal sentencing should be conducted in light of such a conclusion. If the Court were to hold that *Blakely* applies to the Guidelines, the proper disposition of petitioner's claim could be affected by such a holding (as well as by any applicable doctrines of waiver, forfeiture, and harmless error). Accordingly, the petition for a writ of certiorari should be held pending this Court's decisions in *Booker*

and *Fanfan*, and then disposed of as appropriate in light of the decisions in those cases.*

PAUL D. CLEMENT
Acting Solicitor General

SEPTEMBER 2004

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* The government waives any further response to the petition unless this Court requests otherwise.